

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MASERU 00006 021543Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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R 021330Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4588

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0006

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LT

SUBJ: JONATHAN'S YEAR-END SPEECH

SUMMARY.

1. IN ONE OF INCREASINGLY RARE PUBLIC APPEARANCES OUTSIDE MASERU, PRIME MINISTER LEABUA JONATHAN ON DECEMBER 28 ADDRESSED POLITICAL RALLY AT HLOTSE IN NORTHERN DISTRICT OF LERIBE. JONATHAN REVIEWED LESOTHO'S DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POSITION AND DEPARTED FROM PREPARED TEXT TO RENEW LESOTHO'S CLAIMS TO NEIGHBORING SOUTH AFRICAN TERRITORY. JONATHAN'S STATEMENT MADE IN REPLY TO RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT RALLY BEARING ON SHAPE OF LESOTHO'S POLITICAL FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH HE NOW SELDOM PLACES HIMSELF BEFORE THE PUBLIC OUTSIDE MASERU, JONATHAN CAN STILL BE ASSURED OF FRIENDLY RECEPTION IN MOST PARTS OF LERIBE DISTRICT AND IT WAS THERE IN TOWN OF HLOTSE THAT HE APPEARED ON DECEMBER 28 TO DELIVER AN END OF YEAR MESSAGE AND RECEIVE TRIBUTE.

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PAGE 02 MASERU 00006 021543Z

EM HLOTSE GATHERING ADOPTED SEVERAL PROPOSALS INTENDED TO FORM BASIS FOR NEW SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. INCLUDED WERE: SCRAPPING OF 1966 CONSTITUTION SUSPENDED IN 1970; CONSTITUTIONAL (I.E. FIGUREHEAD) ROLE FOR KING MOSHOESHOE II; GREATER AUTHORITY TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES; BAN IN PERPETUITY ON RETURN OF SELF-EXILED OPPOSITION CONGRESS PARTY LEADER MOKHEHLE AND HIS FOLLOWERS; MOTION OF FULL CONFIDENCE IN JONATHAN AND HIS GOVERNMENT.

4. IN REPLY, JONATHAN THANKED HIS SUPPORTERS FOR AGREEING WITH HIS GOVERNMENT THAT THE JANUARY 1974 POLICE POST RAIDS CONSTITUTED COUP ATTEMPT. HE REITERATED CONVICTION THAT SEGREGATIONIST AND REACTIONARY ELEMENTS (READ SOUTH AFRICAN) SUPPORTED THE "TRAITORS." HE THANKED POLICE AND NOW INFAMOUS POLICE RESERVISTS, OR "PEACE CORPS" FOR BRINGING MATTERS UNDER CONTROL.

5. JONATHAN TOUCHED ON 1973 CARLETONVILLE SHOOTING AND REPORTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY TO IMPROVE MINE WORKING CONDITIONS BETWEEN GOL AND ANGLO-AMERICAN. HE ANNOUNCED SECOND FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1976-1980) WOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND LIVESTOCK, FOLLOWED BY IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION. LESOTHO'S GOAL, HE SAID, IS SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND, TO ACHIEVE THIS, LOAN FUNDS WILL BE SOUGHT FROM ALL COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF THEIR IDEOLOGIES. REVIEWING COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, HE CRITICIZED SOUTH AFRICA'S NON-COOPERATION AND SPECIFICALLY CITED ABORTED HONDA VENTURE. FOR FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HE ENDORSED COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER MOITSE'S CAMPAIGN TO PUT COMMERCIAL SECTOR IN BASOTHO HANDS.

6. IN REALM OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JONATHAN EMPHASIZED NON-ALIGNMENT - A RELATIVELY NEW THEME - AND EMPHASIZED SUPPORT FOR RECENT LUSAKA NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID NOTHING LESS

THAN MAJORITY RULE WOULD SUFFICE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND LESOTHO WOULD SUPPORT EFFORTS OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

7. ON NATIONAL COMMISSION, JONATHAN RESTATED HE WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MASERU 00006 021543Z

GUIDED BY WISHES OF PEOPLE. HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT HAD NOTED VIEWS OF GREAT MAJORITY THAT GOVERNMENT ON BASIS OF POLITICAL PARTIES HAS CAUSED FRICTION AND HATRED. TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO MAJORITY HAS EXPRESSED ITSELF IN THIS WAY.

8. JONATHAN DEPARTED FROM TEXT TO SAY HE PLANNED TO PETITION UN AND ICJ FOR RETURN OF TERRITORY NOW HELD BY SOUTH AFRICA THAT BELOGED TO LESOTHO. SUCH TOWNS AS BETHLEHEM AND

FICKSBURG IN THE ORANGE FREE STATE WERE MENTIONED AND HE
APPEARED TO CLAIM ENTIRE FREE STATE AND PART OF NATAL.

9. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH JONATHAN'S HLOTSE SPEECH GIVEN
BIG BUILD-UP, LOCAL ATTENTION HAS BEEN SLIGHT. SOUTH
AFRICAN PRESS GAVE SOME PLAY TO JONATHAN'S LAND CLAIMS
BUT MOST OF SPEECH WENT UNNOTICED. IT CONTAINS SOME NEW
AND VALUABLE MATERIAL. FIRSTLY, JONATHAN'S REMARKS WOULD
APPEAR TO INDICATE HE NOW THINKING OF NEW SYSTEM OF GOVER-
NMENT WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL PARTIES. SECONDLY, AT TIME WHEN
TREASON TRIAL UNDERWAY AND POLICE AND "PEACE CORPS" BEING
REPEATEDLY POINTED UP AS LAWLESS THUGS, IT SIGNIFICANT
THAT JONATHAN PRAISED THEM PUBLICLY FOR MAINTAINING ORDER.

10. RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO JONATHAN NOT PARTICULARLY
SIGNIFICANT AND PROBABLY REFLECT ONLY WHAT ADMIRING BAND
THOUGHT HE WOULD WANT TO HEAR.
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